

Deer Firearms Hunt Draw Information

Busseron Creek Fish & Wildlife Area

This page includes information and instructions for those interested in or selected to participate in a reserved draw hunt opportunity. It is important to note that areas participating in reserved hunts are managed by various agencies and may have unique restrictions that each hunter must follow. Please read each area's information packet carefully before pursuing a hunt.

Applying:

You must be properly licensed to hunt deer prior to applying. Hunters may apply for the chance to hunt opening weekend of deer firearms season, Nov. 14-15, 2026. There are no age restrictions on applying. Youth hunters may apply if they are properly licensed to hunt deer. Visit our [Deer Hunting](#) page to learn more about deer hunting requirements.

Restrictions:

Allowed Equipment:

Equipment	Specifications
Rifle	Bullet diameter: .219" minimum - Full metal jacketed bullets are illegal - Maximum of 10 cartridges can be carried
Handgun	Barrel length: 4" minimum Bullet diameter: .243" minimum Cartridge length: 1.16" minimum, except for 10 mm Auto and .40 S&W 10 mm also legal cartridges (i.e. 10 mm Auto and .40 S&W) - Rifles with barrel less than 18" are NOT considered handguns .25 – 20 Winchester, .32 – 20 Winchester, .30 carbine, and .38 special ammunition are prohibited.
Shotgun	Bore: 10, 12, 16, 20, or 28 gauge, or .410 - Shooting slugs and sabot bullets only - Combination rifle-shotguns are allowed
Muzzleloading Rifle/Shotgun	Barrel caliber: .40" minimum Bullet diameter: .357" minimum - Single bullet, loaded from muzzle. Powder may be loaded from the breech. - Sabot bullets permitted

Muzzleloading Handgun	Barrel length: 12” minimum, measured from the base of the breech plug (excluding tangs and other projections to the end of the barrel, including the muzzle crown) Barrel caliber: .50” minimum Bullet diameter: .44” minimum Loaded from muzzle and single shot
Airguns	Using non-ignited compressed air or other gas charged by external high compression power source Projectiles: Must shoot .40 caliber or larger single bullet generating 400 ft. lbs. of muzzle energy; or an arrow or bolt with sharpened metal or metal-edged broadhead at minimum 300 fps at release
Vertical Bow	Long bows, compound bows, or recurve bows and arrows Draw weight: 35 lbs. minimum Bows drawn, held or released by means other than by hand or hand-held releases may be used Arrows must have metal, metal-edged, napped flint, chert, or obsidian broadheads
Crossbow	Defined as a device for propelling an arrow by means of limbs mounted on a stock and a string, and having a working safety that may be drawn or held Draw Weight: 125 lbs. minimum

Bag Limit:

- For those using a firearms license, the season bag limit is one (1) antlered deer. An antlered deer must have at least one antler that is 3” long.
- For those using archery or crossbow equipment, harvested deer cannot exceed the [county antlerless bag limit](#) of the hunted property and count toward the statewide bag limit of one (1) antlered deer and six (6) antlerless deer.
- You **cannot** harvest an antlerless deer with a firearm at Busseron Creek FWA.

Hunting Hours:

- Legal hunting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

Hunt Information:

Successfully drawn hunters will receive a hunt information packet with access permits included. If drawn, hunters may bring one hunting partner with them who is allowed to hunt. The hunting partner must be properly licensed, and the above restrictions apply. Successfully drawn hunters must sign in each day of their hunt at the self-service booth before entering the field. Access permits must be filled out and returned to one of the drop boxes on the property at the conclusion of the hunt period.

Tree stands must display your name, address, and telephone number, legibly written and able to be read from ground level. Tree stands or any equipment associated with tree stands may not penetrate the bark of a tree more than ½ inch. Stands can be installed starting September 15th, and must be removed within 10 days following the end of all deer hunting seasons.

Area Information:

Busseron Creek FWA is a 3,950 acre property composed of bottomland forest, marshland, and upland habitats. It is located north of Highway 54 in Sullivan, Indiana.

The first weekend (two days) of deer firearms season is by reserved draw only at Busseron Creek FWA. When applying for the 2026 Deer Firearms Busseron Creek FWA hunt, you may choose only one hunt period: Saturday, Nov.14, 2026 – Sunday, Nov. 15, 2026.

The property will draw 50 hunters to hunt for this period. If successful, you must take your hunt permit with you and check in each day of your hunt period at one of the self-service station booths (location shown on map). There is no standby drawing at Busseron Creek FWA

Contact: If you have further questions, please contact the Goose Pond property office at 812-512-9185.

BUSSEY CREEK FISH & WILDLIFE AREA

Managed by Goose Pond FWA | County Roads 300 N & 526 E | Sullivan, IN 47882 | 812-512-9185
3,950 Acres | Established 2024

DNR
Indiana Department
of Natural Resources

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